

Funding and Sustainment Methods

State	Category	Method	Intended Impact
PA	LMR Devices	<p>Montgomery County, PA is offering municipalities and public safety agencies an interest-free financing package to purchase new radios as part of its larger emergency radio system upgrade. The county is paying for infrastructure upgrades, and has secured low-interest financing through the Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority (DVRFA) to provide financing for local governments. Municipalities will be able to borrow funds to cover the costs of new radios and repay the principal of those loans over a five-year period to the DVRFA, which will administer the loan, and the county will pay the interest and administrative costs. The financing program will only be offered one time. Repayment is expected to start in 2016.</p>	<p>County is paying for infrastructure upgrades through low-interest loans from a local Finance Authority. The funds will help municipalities in the county purchase radios that will operate on a new county communications system.</p>
WA	LMR System Replacement	<p>King County, WA voting on a proposal to lift the lid on the property tax above the state limitation, to replace the county's emergency radio system. The system is owned in equal shares by King County, the city of Seattle, Valley Communications Center and the East Side Public Safety Communications Agency. A release from the council stated the levy lid lift rate would be .07 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Based on the 2015 median home value in King County, the cost to the median homeowner would be \$26.46 per year. It is estimated the levy would raise \$273M. The vote is April 28, 2015.</p> <p>King County voters OK emergency network. King County voters Tuesday approved a \$246 million levy to upgrade and expand King County's emergency-radio network used daily by police, fire, emergency-medical staff and 911 dispatchers from jurisdictions across the county. In Tuesday's vote count, 65 percent were supporting the property-tax levy known as Proposition 1. County officials have said the network, originally built in 1997, doesn't reach all areas of the county and the current signal is sometimes blocked by high-rise buildings within cities. That's made it hard for first responders to talk with each other at incidents or relay information to dispatchers, levy backers said. The network contractor, Motorola, has also said it won't support the current system after 2018. The nine-year levy, which required a simple majority to pass, will cost \$0.07 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation beginning in 2016. That was the only countywide measure in King County in the vote-by-mail special election.</p>	<p>To replace the county's aging communications systems and improve coverage, the County Council proposed to raise the rate on property taxes. The proposal was sent to voters in April 2015, in a vote-by-mail special election. This is a nine-year levy, which will cost homeowners \$0.07 per \$1,000 assessed valuation beginning 2016. Voters approved the levy – 65% were in support of the increase, which is expected to raise approximately \$250 million for the communications system</p>

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GA	LMR System Replacement	<p>Whitfield County, GA is proposing a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) to pay for infrastructure improvements, including a \$12 million digital radio system for county first responders. If the SPLOST is approved, Whitfield County would join the Tennessee Valley Regional Communications System (TVRCS), which includes 10 counties in Tennessee and Catoosa, Dade and Walker counties in Georgia. The referendum is on the March 17 ballot. The 1 percent sales tax would last four years, beginning July 1 and ending June 30, 2019. It would collect \$63.6 million during that period, according to the latest estimates.</p> <p>SPLOST Passes Convincingly. The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) passed easily with 2,624 yes votes (67.26 percent) to 1,277 no votes (32.74 percent). Only 10.26 percent of registered voters turned out (3,914 of the 38,157 total voters). The 1 percent sales tax lasts four years, beginning July 1 and ending June 30, 2019. It will collect \$63.6 million during that time, according to the latest estimates. Thirty-eight percent of that goes toward public safety, including a digital emergency radio system for first responders, new trucks for the Whitfield County and Dalton fire departments, a new fire station in the northwest part of the county and new vehicles for the Cohutta and Varnell police departments and the Whitfield County sheriff's office. Another 41 percent goes to roads and infrastructure.</p>	<p>To build a digital radio system, Whitfield County, GA proposed a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) to fund the system and other infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>The SPLOST went to a vote and 67% of the citizens approved the tax. The funding will allow the local communications system to connect to a regional radio system that allows communications between counties in Tennessee and Georgia.</p>
ME	LMR System Upgrade	<p>Maine completes statewide P25 system. Maine recently completed an upgrade of its P25 system with \$57.4 million from its state legislature.</p> <p>State of Maine, Harris announce completion of statewide P25 system Officials for the state of Maine recently announced that more than 2,000 users are communicating on the new statewide digital P25 Maine State Communications Network (MSCommNet) system built by Harris, which has replaced disparate aging analog systems that were unable to provide coverage throughout the state. Users have been operating on the VHF P25 system for more than a month and have given the network rousing reviews—particularly when compared to the previous radio systems that state personnel used, according to Greg McNeal, chief technology officer (CTO) for the state of Maine's office of information technology (OIT).</p>	<p>This is a project that was primarily funded by the State, with State funds. This project involved multiple state agencies, CTO, communications officials. Project now has 2,000 users.</p>
FL	LMR System	<p>Palm Beach County to provide dispatch services for Delray Fire Rescue. Delray Beach Fire Rescue will receive dispatch services from Palm Beach County Fire Rescue starting 5/6/15. Currently, Delray's Police Department Communications Division provides dispatch services for fire rescue. Now, the city will be on the county's system. City officials say the switch will help provide the best service, help track department resources and provide automatic aid by the county if resources are strained. The move will also save the city money because the county will now provide radio equipment. Delray will save \$750,000 by switching fire rescue dispatch to Palm Beach County.</p>	<p>The City of Delray Beach will use County dispatch services. The City will be on the county's systems for fire rescue, which will not only improve service but also help the city save money, as the county will provide the radios.</p>

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CO	LMR System Upgrade	Pitkin County assessing radio system overhaul. Pitkin County is mulling an overhaul to its radio system from the current VHF analog multicast network, to an 800 megahertz system used by neighboring counties and the state. The LMR isn't compatible with the 800 MHz system used by Colorado State Patrol. The state then offered its support for an 800 MHz system, as well as funding to help cut the cost for each site down to around \$215,000 for equipment. The sites would be turned over to the state, which would cover future maintenance and replacement costs, but the county would still control the towers, and would be responsible for upkeep.	The State offered funding to help the county migrate from a VHF analog network to a statewide 800MHz system. County sites would be turned over to the state, which would cover future maintenance and replacement costs; the county would control the towers and manage upkeep.
AZ	LMR System Upgrade	Police chief tells council upgrade of communications needed. The Bullhead City Police Chief reported that its communications equipment is obsolete — with some of it dating back to 1985 when the department was established. The system was updated in 1998 and 2006, but is now “past its life,” new parts are no longer available, and the PD must search for used parts. The system could cost \$4 million to replace. The City settled on the more reasonable price of \$1.5 million, “with no bells and whistles.”	The price includes new computer software, communications towers, six 911 operator dispatch consoles, a voice logging system and radios.
LA	LMR System Upgrade	St Tammany Parish is spending \$16 million to build the best hurricane communications system in the state. It's part of a state-wide communications system that's currently under construction. The parish is building-out the system to include virtually all major emergency responders. The various agencies that are joining the system are pitching in to pay for the \$16 million price tag.	Complete collaboration amongst all agencies will allow seamless interoperability and cost savings.
CT	LMR Dispatch Consolidation	State police dispatch consolidations to be reversed Connecticut's public safety commissioner announced on Monday that she intends to reverse all the state police dispatching consolidations put in place by her predecessor, who was criticized by some troopers and state lawmakers who said the consolidations were increasing police response time. Dora Schriro, commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, said she completed a review of the consolidations and plans to reinstate dispatching and call-taking services at all state police barracks.	State had instituted consolidation of dispatch services as cost-saving measure; successor reversed decision to consolidate
MN	LMR Upgrade (Multi-Agency)	Minnesota County Launches 'First of its Kind' Integrated Public Safety System. First responders in Anoka County, Minn., may feel a little safer responding to emergency calls these days, thanks to a new public safety data system initiative integrating data from 26 county agencies. The new system, which was designed to improve the safety of responders and citizens by enabling fire and law enforcement agencies to share critical data during a response, was born out of the fire department's need to replace their antiquated dispatch system. “The fire department's system was pushing 40 years old and didn't include computer aided dispatch (CAD),” said Harlan Lundstrom, deputy chief of the Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View Fire Department. “Then law enforcement jumped in and wanted to upgrade too. So we started looking at redoing the whole public safety system for the county...”	County fire department was replacing their dispatch system. Law enforcement joined in on the project. Project promotes interoperability and information-sharing across agencies, reduces duplication, and leads to more accurate record-keeping.

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OH	LMR Upgrade	Sheriff's Office requests \$1M radio communication system upgrade Medina County commissioners are considering a contract with Cleveland Communications Inc., of Parma, to upgrade the radio communication system at the Sheriff's Office. The cost would depend on several variables, but could exceed \$1 million. "The main upgrade is to give us complete inter-operability with other counties," Meredith said. That capability especially will be important during the 2016 Republican National Convention to be held in Cleveland, she said. "Cuyahoga County has asked every county in Northeast Ohio to offer support and additional manpower," Meredith said. "If they should come our way, we would be able to have those communications with them."	Local sheriff seeking funding for LMR upgrade to digital P25, in preparation of RNC in Cleveland. Upgrades 400 MHz to 700/800 MHz, with backward compatibility to 400 MHz so local/volunteer fire companies, who may not be able to afford upgrades.
KY	LMR Upgrade (Multi-Agency)	Local agencies make move to new \$7M radio system The Richardsville Volunteer Fire Department was the first public safety agency in Warren County to be moved to a long-planned emergency radio system that will bring better radio coverage to the county. Some non-emergency agencies, such as the county road department and parks and recreation department, were recently moved to the system. More fire departments are expected to be moved to the Bowling Green/Warren County Emergency Services Radio System this summer. The city and county combined financial resources to pay for the new \$7 million system. Both governments approved the project in 2013. There is a device in place that will allow the old and new systems to be tied together while the cutover process to the new system is being completed.	The new system will give agencies better coverage and allow all nine fire departments to be able to communicate with one another. OEC will look into any agreement that may be in place with non-public safety users, and will inquire about the "transition technology."
NJ	LMR Upgrade (Multi-Agency)	Monroe poised to upgrade radio system with help from East Brunswick Monroe set aside \$3 million in capital funds to upgrade its decades-old radio system, and link to East Brunswick's master core and radio system. The Council is now poised to vote on a shared service agreement with East Brunswick to support the new system. Under the agreement, Monroe would pay Brunswick \$25,000 a year to access East Brunswick's master core and radio system. Brunswick has similar agreements with two other towns. This combined annual funding helps Brunswick maintain the system, and saves money for the participating towns, in that they do not need to establish their own master core. For Monroe, this could result in as much as \$700,000 in savings. The system will service almost 600 town employees, including public safety and non-public safety users. The \$25,000 is slated to come from the police budget. The Council vote on the shared service agreement is September 9.	Being able to enter into shared service agreements reduces costs for the system owners and for the system users.
FL	LMR Upgrade	Brevard upgrades towers to improve law enforcement communication. The County is installing three new 200-foot communication towers to upgrade its 25-year old system, improve coverage, address gaps in communication, and enable police, fire and emergency personnel access to a 'countywide' radio channel. The towers are specially designed to collapse on themselves in hurricane-force winds. The county is looking at leasing tower space to cell phone companies. The money would go to offsetting the \$15 million price tag to upgrade the communications system.	This is an example of how leasing tower space can help offset the costs to upgrading.

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CA	LMR Upgrade (Multi-Agency)	<p>PUBLIC SAFETY: Police departments joining Riverside County's radio network. Several cities are expected to join Riverside County's public safety radio network by July 1, 2016, bringing the \$172 million system closer to its goal of unifying in-the-field communication between police and firefighters. Last month, the Murrieta Police Department became the first local department to join the Public Safety Enterprise Communication network. Murrieta officials expect to spend \$2.1 million to join the network, and another \$120,000 a year on radios for officers.</p> <p>The new network also costs more to operate -- about \$15 million a year compared to \$6.7 million annually for the old system. The higher costs have been blamed for budget shortfalls in the sheriff's and county fire departments. Outside agencies have been reluctant to join the network until they know how much it will cost them. Loftus, the Riverside police lieutenant, said his agency initially had concerns about the network's reliability and whether it could afford to join. The network's startup glitches have been fixed, and the price to subscribe is now more affordable.</p>	The new system will allow police to quickly communicate over the radio. Additionally, Systems often cost more than expected, and the uncertainty in ongoing costs can affect subscribership. Cost drives subscribership, and subscribership drives costs as the cost for each agency using the network should drop as more agencies join.
GA	LMR Upgrade	<p>Columbia County Fire department to get new radios, move dispatchers into 911 center. Columbia County leaders are expected to approve a bid to (1) provide new digital radios for county fire personnel and (2) consolidate 911 and fire dispatchers. Commissioners discussed a \$1.324 million bid to purchase the 800 MHz Phase II Trunked Radios for Columbia County Fire Rescue. The funds will come from the 2017-22 one-cent sales tax.</p>	The new digital radios and consolidation of 911 and dispatchers will streamline the communication process during emergencies and disasters.
NY	LMR Systems, Interoperability and Regional Partnerships	<p>New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant (SICG) Program is a State-funded competitive grant which supports the growth of regional communications partnerships throughout the State. The partnerships, which are inclusive of local and state public safety agencies, will create interoperable emergency communications systems for first responders. The funding will be used to expand radio coverage by installing new equipment at towers and antenna sites; set up common interoperability and mutual-aid channels among public safety radio systems, consolidate emergency services dispatch facilities, and deploy technology so that counties can link systems together.</p> <p>To date \$215 million has been awarded to 52 counties (including the City of New York) through this program. Governance protocols, standard operating procedures and training and exercises are being implemented through these entities.</p>	Through the incentive of the SICG, 10 regional partnerships or consortiums have been formed inclusive all 57 counties and NYC. This represents an increase in participation of over 50% since the grant program was launched in 2011. Continuing the accomplishments of this program, an additional \$50 million in fourth round awards will be announced in coming months.

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SC*	LMR Systems, Interoperability, and Public-Private Partnerships	<p><u>South Carolina Leveraged Public-Private Partnerships to Improve Communications.</u> In 1989, Hurricane Hugo ravaged South Carolina. As first responders from other areas arrived, incompatible radio systems made it difficult to communicate or coordinate public safety efforts. State and local response agencies recognized a need for a reliable, statewide, interoperable system, but struggled with the projected \$100 million cost. At the same time Spartanburg County and SCANA, a local power company, joined forces to build a system they could both use and leveraged SCANA's existing 800 MHz trunked radio network. Over time, more state and local agencies joined the network, and still more were interested in joining, when and if infrastructure could be expanded into those areas.</p> <p>The network continues to expand and evolve to meet public safety needs. In 2001, with approval from the State, SCANA agreed to sell the network infrastructure to its vendor to operate the system and fund its expansion, under a contract with the State Division of Technology. The South Carolina Statewide 800 MHz Radio and Mobile Data System has continued to grow and today is one of the largest shared statewide public safety radio systems in the nation.</p>	The goal of the shared network is to provide statewide coverage, enhance statewide and regional interoperability, coordinate the State's response to emergencies, and to provide an economical solution for stand-alone public safety radio systems.
MI*	LMR Upgrade	<p><u>Michigan Charging User Fees to Sustain Public Safety Communications System.</u> The implementation of the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) began in 1984 when the State police were seeking to replace its 1940s two-way radio system. They decided the new network should be large and flexible enough to support all State and local public safety agencies. In June 1994, the Michigan Legislature approved the funding for the new system and a contract was awarded to build the MPSCS.</p> <p>MPSCS provides a stable, secure framework for interoperable communications among local, State, federal, tribal and private first responders. MPSCS handles the second-largest trunked communication system in the world. To sustain this large system, Michigan charges fees to members and non-members including user fees, collocation fees - members, and collocation fees – non-members.</p>	This system and approach promotes asset sharing and cost sharing, which reduces costs to individual agencies and to the State.
OH*	LMR Upgrade	<p><u>Ohio Charges User Fees to Support its Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS).</u> "MARCS is a 700/800 MHz radio and data network that utilizes state-of-the-art trunked technology to provide statewide interoperability in digital clarity to its subscribers throughout Ohio and a 10 mile radius outside of Ohio." The system is supported exclusively by user fees, which are divided between different agencies and are designated for specific purpose, as established in Ohio Revised Code.</p>	Fees can cover the operations and maintenance costs for public safety communications related investments.

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MI*	LMR Upgrade	<p><u>Leasing Tower Space in Michigan</u>. The Michigan legislature passed a law allowing public and non-public users to collocate equipment on the Michigan Public Safety Communication System (MPSCS) towers. The legislation stipulated that all costs associated with planning, installing, and maintaining collocation equipment are the responsibility of the agency or entity wishing to collocate on the MPSCS towers. Government agencies could collocate on the MPSCS towers immediately; nonpublic safety government entities were required to wait three years after the law went into effect to collocate on the MPSCS towers for any “commercial or business purposes.” Legislation further required that costs associated with collocating on MPSCS paid by a public safety agency or a legal entity be comparable to the costs charged to other public safety agencies or entities. Fees for members (i.e., governmental agencies) are waived if the entity is requesting a radio service that MPSCS does not offer.</p> <p>Revenue collected from leasing the MPSCS tower space is to be used for the payment of debt service for bonds that financed the construction of the MPSCS towers. Further, the State reserved the right to deny requests to co-locate if the installation, attachment, or collocation will interfere with the “optimum operation” of the MPSCS.</p>	States that have built networks with statewide coverage may have the ability to lease infrastructure and excess tower capacity to public and private entities to generate additional revenue. The leasing of state-owned towers and infrastructure can help to extend commercial service to underserved areas.
MO*	LMR Upgrade	<p><u>Missouri Leasing Dark Fiber to Raise Revenue</u>. Kansas City, Missouri developed LiNKCity, which offered high-speed internet access for residents. North Kansas City spent \$10.5 million in gaming money, the revenue that comes from Harrah's Casino, to build the network. It was supposed to be an attractive amenity to residents and a lure to outside businesses to move to North Kansas City. It was also set up as an enterprise fund, a segment of the city's budget that's supposed to operate as a business and generate its own profit. But with the rapid advancement of high-speed internet, and the introduction of even-faster fiber, projections for LiNKCity use were over-estimated. Facing revenue shortfalls, the City decided to enter into a 20-year lease agreement with [a major Internet provider] to use city-owned dark fiber. [The private Internet provider] would be able to use the dark fiber as a pass-through to surrounding areas, and Kansas City would receive approximately \$3.2 million in leasing fees. The steady stream of funding would help to stabilize the finances for this municipal network, and expand access to high-speed internet in surrounding areas.</p>	This example demonstrates the complex nature of building and funding communications systems.

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FL*	LMR Upgrade & Public – Private Partnerships	<p><u>Florida Covers Costs of Public Safety System with Vehicle Registration Fees and Traffic Fines.</u> “The Department of Management Services (DMS) entered into a public/private partnership with [its vendor] to implement the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS). DMS conveyed selected State-owned communications tower and tower assets to [the vendor], and received \$26.4 million in credits for radio equipment and accessories. [The vendor] also provided additional credits to replace 6,000 State mobile and portable radios...and was paid a \$40 million advance payment per the service contract.”</p> <p>“To operate and maintain the SLERS network, [the vendor] is paid \$15 - \$18 million annually based on motor vehicle and vessel registration surcharge. To enhance the SLERS network, DMS receives \$3 per criminal offense and moving traffic violation under section 318.18(17) of the Florida Statutes. The revenue stream brings in about \$1.5 million annually to enhance SLERS such as radio coverage, capacity, and operation of the radio system. In addition, DMS receives from [the vendor] 15 percent credit of all net revenues received from SLERS Partners on communications towers and 5 percent credit for each SLERS Partner radio on the SLERS network.”</p>	While revenues generated from traffic tickets and fees for criminal offense are not sufficient to support network operations on their own, they can reduce operational costs, the savings of which can be passed on to public safety agencies.
CA*	LMR Upgrade: Leasing	<p><u>City of Concord, California.</u> In 2010, the City of Concord, California was facing a situation in which their legacy UHF radio system for public safety radio communications was nearing the end of its useful life. In 2010, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 10-77 authorizing participation in the East Bay Radio Communications System Authority (EBRCSA) issued bond, and participation in the regional interoperable radio system for all emergency responders in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Participation in EBRCSA would require the City to purchase digital P25 radios that would operate in the 700-800MHz frequency range.</p> <p>The cost of replacing the 84 subscriber units was approximately \$381,000. City staff proposed a “lease-to-own” option whereby the City would enter into an agreement with the vendor to receive the units immediately, spread the payments (with nominal interest) out over time, and, own the units at the end of the lease.</p>	This option allowed the City to budget for the costs, spread costs out over time, and avoid having to pay a substantial fee up-front. In addition, the City was able to combine its purchasing power with a neighboring jurisdiction and receive a bulk discount on each subscriber unit from the vendor.

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GA*	LMR Upgrade	<p><u>Whitfield County, Georgia proposed a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) to pay for infrastructure improvements, including a \$12 million P25 700/800 MHz radio system for county first responders.</u> The county is currently on an analog VHF radio system. The SPLOST was approved, and the county is in the process of planning the transition and implementation of its P25 radio system, which includes upgrades that will link its public safety communications system to a regional P25 system in Tennessee. The SPLOST raised the sales tax by one percent (1%) each year for four years, beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2019. The proposal had to be approved by the voters. Public safety representatives held a series of educational town hall meetings on the need for improvements to the public safety communications systems. In April 2015, the proposal passed (67% in favor). As a result, the County is expected to collect \$63.6 million. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of that will go toward public safety, including the new P25 emergency radio system for first responders, new trucks for the Whitfield County and Dalton fire departments, a new fire station in the northwest part of the county and new vehicles for the Cohutta and Varnell police departments and the Whitfield County sheriff's office. Forty-one percent (41%) of the revenues will go toward improvements to roads and other infrastructure.</p>	<p>This method has several advantages, in that it establishes a specific stream of funding set aside for public safety improvements, enables public safety agencies to provide elected officials with specific costs and a set budget for the project, and allows elected officials to control the rate and duration of the tax or tax increase to cover those costs.</p>
CT*	LMR Improvements & Operations	<p><u>Funding Improvements through Special Tax Districts.</u> Some localities have special districts which levy taxes to fund infrastructure costs, such as water, sewer, and fire services. In the State of Connecticut, there are Fire Districts which have authority to tax to support public safety needs. "The City of Norwich has a career fire department in a city district which levies a tax to pay for the career fire department. Norwich also has five volunteer fire departments in a town district which levies a tax to pay for the volunteer fire departments. Each department operates cooperatively, but independently. The city owns the career fire station and two of the volunteer fire stations. While three stations are owned by the volunteer fire departments, the town funds the operational and maintenance of these stations. The city owns all functional fire apparatus of all the fire departments." Already-existing special tax districts could be a means to seek constant funding for emergency communications costs (e.g., maintenance, operations, upgrades, user fees, Internet services).</p>	<p>This method has several advantages, in that it establishes a specific stream of funding set aside for public safety improvements, enables public safety agencies to provide elected officials with specific costs and a set budget for the project, and allows elected officials to control the rate and duration of the tax or tax increase to cover those costs.</p>

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AL	LMR Improvements & Operations	<p>Dale County takes \$694,500 'leap of faith' Dale County has reached a point where it must upgrade its emergency communication system for first responders. The Dale County Commission unanimously agreed to sign a \$694,000 contract to upgrade the system. The project will be financed over eight years at an interest rate of 2.29 percent from Commercial Bank of Ozark. The upgrades will be paid for largely from the new process serving fees that are expected to be collected under new legislation. The process serving fee will be \$25 for each document served by the sheriff's department for "matters pending or to be commenced in a court inside of Dale County. The process-serving fee will be \$50 for each document served by the sheriff's department for "matters pending or to be commenced outside of Dale County. The funds generated by the process-serving fee would be earmarked for sheriff's office law enforcement vehicles, communication equipment and other technology for the sheriff's department. Additionally, Dale County partnered with Troy University to put equipment on the university's towers.</p>	The new process serving fees will help offset the costs of the upgraded emergency communication system.
MO	LMR Improvements & Operations	<p>St. Louis County opens new emergency operations center St. Louis County is unveiling its new radio system for first responders this week. Tax dollars from a special sales tax will pay for \$66.4 million dollars of equipment. It will connect police, fire and emergency medical crews on special radio channels when multiple agencies are needed for a natural or manmade emergency. St. Louis County Public Safety Supervisor Daniel Davis said surrounding counties are in the process of joining the communication effort.</p>	The county's implementation of a special sales tax will allow for a unified system that should reduce the time it takes for commanders on the scene to reach first responders when additional help is needed.
LA	LMR Improvements & Operations	<p>Gonzales agrees to pay monthly fees for use of radio equipment to help fund parish's struggling 911 District The Ascension Parish Communications District approved the collection of a user fee of \$5 per month for each of 238 radios used by government agencies (e.g. police officers, firefighters, and public works personnel) to help fund the 911 center operated by the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>The user fee, generating \$14,280 a year, will be collected by the Ascension Parish Communications District, which has a board of representatives from municipal and parish entities and handles all radio communications.</p> <p>The district is in charge of disbursing funds for the maintenance of the 911 center that are collected as a monthly tariff of approximately \$1 on every phone bill, whether landline or wireless, in the parish.</p>	The new user fee and monthly tariff on phone bills allows the district to maintain equipment during a time when maintenance costs are rising.

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IN	P25 Radio System	<p>Indiana's Howard County to Move into Future with P25 Radio System Currently, there is a lack of interoperability throughout the state of Indiana. State officials have decided to implement a Project 25, or P25, digital system to increase communications between local and state agencies. The statewide system, composed of six implementation phases, is expected to be completed sometime in mid-to-late 2016.</p> <p>For Howard County, the total price tag will run somewhere from \$6 million to \$7 million. The County hopes the cost can be split into multiple payments. The basis behind splitting the payments would be to first begin implementation of the local P25 system before later spending money to tie the system into the statewide program following the fifth phase. Financing the project will largely depend on the final price tag. The County has yet to receive any grant funding for the project. If the final price tag is lower than projected, the County will look at financing the project through cash-on-hand or short-term financing. If the final price tag is higher than projected, the County will look at a public safety tax or some kind of a bond issue to cover the cost. However, a tax increase is currently the least attractive funding option. If a tax were to be implemented, it would include a sunset clause taking the tax out of effect after the necessary amount of funding was received. Ultimately, the final size of the project will determine how the project is financed.</p> <p>As for the financial responsibility among differing government agencies, each group will pay for its own radio upgrades and replacements, with the county being solely responsible for the program's infrastructure.</p>	Statewide implementation of a P25 radio system will connect first responders to any P25 compatible radio system throughout Indiana. More importantly, the switch to Indiana's P25 system will allow for simplicity of conversation in the most dangerous of times.
TX	Business Model for Public Safety LTE Sustainability	<p>Harris County Tackles Business Model for Public Safety LTE Sustainability Harris County, Texas has worked out a business model for financial sustainability of its public safety Long Term Evolution (LTE) network. In its first phase, the agency needs 7,500 subscribers paying \$35 a month for unlimited data within three years of offering paid user fees. A few obstacles stand in the early builder network's way to achieving that goal, however. The first is the high price of the devices that users need to operate on the network. The second is the nascent market for voice over LTE (VoLTE), which is likely to be required before public-safety users will give up their commercial LTE service for the private network. Buildout of the Harris County public safety LTE network, called Broadband Interoperable Gateway Network (BIGNet) is currently on track.</p>	This example showcases the benefits of using a business model to support public safety initiatives.
IL	9-1-1 Operations & Improvements	<p>Galesburg/Knox County 911 system goes digital On July 1, Galesburg County began collecting a quarter-percent sales tax to help pay for a \$1 million 9-1-1 overhaul. The tax amounts to an additional 25 cents for every \$100 spent in the county. The tax was approved by voters in a referendum. The new digital equipment replaces an analog system and will include in the near future the ability to receive texts and photos from cellphones. The digital switchboard equipment came in under its \$500,000 budget.</p>	The passage of the quarter-percent sales tax showcases the importance of educating the public on the purpose of the increased sales tax.

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PA	911 Operations & Improvements	<p>Pennsylvania lawmakers plan to overhaul the state's 911 Emergency Telephone Act to adapt to changing technology (cell phones) and create a fee structure for system upkeep. Lawmakers have proposed a raise in the monthly per device fee from \$1 to \$2. Currently, fees are based on population, where five counties pay \$1 per device per month. Thirty counties pay \$1.25 and 34 pay \$1.50. Counter proposals have been made to raise fees from \$1 to \$1.60, to consolidate call centers to achieve savings, and to push to receive reimbursement funds out of the state 911 call center funds on a quarterly basis versus the end of the fiscal year.</p> <p>Wireless fee increase coming to PA to upgrade 911 call centers. Lawmakers are working on updating the state's 911 Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act of 1990. House Bill 911, which passed 134-59, increases wireless fees on users for operational and technological upgrades. The wireless fee currently is \$1 per consumer and can reach up to \$1.50 per consumer depending on residence.</p> <p>3 things to know about raising Pennsylvania's 911 surcharge State lawmakers are chugging toward an overhaul of Pennsylvania's emergency communications law, including raising the surcharge that funds counties' 911 call centers. Lawmakers have been studying the issue for more than two years. The surcharges for wireless services expires June 30, leaving the General Assembly with a shrinking window to act.</p> <p>Gov. Wolf raises charge for 911 calls Gov. Tom Wolf signed a bill Monday that would raise millions for emergency call centers throughout the state by increasing the monthly fees paid by phone customers to \$1.65.</p>	<p>The fees would cover costs connected to maintaining emergency call centers, and also to create an infrastructure that would support text-message capabilities, video calls, and nonhuman calls (e.g., OnStar, iPads). The Bill, increasing wireless fees, was passed in the PA House. Opponents feel the fee is already very high, that the fee would go toward current shortfalls, and that sunset provisions in the proposed legislation leaves the door open for the government to re-open fees.</p>
NY	911 Operations & Improvements	<p>New York State sets aside \$10M for a PSAP Operations Grants, to offer grants to counties to sustain ongoing operations and improvements of PSAPs in NY State. The law seeks an equitable distribution of funding among counties based on quantifiable elements, relevant metrics (e.g., population, call volume), and current status (efforts toward consolidation, NG911); therefore the distribution is formula-based.</p>	<p>This formula grant reimburses counties for PSAP costs based on prescribed metrics.</p>

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VT	911 Consolidation	<p>Firefighters Oppose PSAP Vermont Consolidation. State plans to consolidate four state-operated 911 call centers into two. VT Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn has proposed closing the dispatch centers in Derby and Rutland and transferring the phone calls and radio communications to the dispatch centers in Williston and Rockingham. The plan is slated to save \$1.7 million, by request of Gov. Peter Shumlin.</p> <p>911 technology upgrades wasted in Vermont call center closing. In January 2015, Gov. Shumlin proposed closing 911 Public Safety Answering Points in Derby and Rutland Town to help narrow the state's budget gap. However, notification of the PSAP consolidation came after FairPoint, Vermont's new 911 service provider as of November, had already begun making upgrades. The only piece of upgraded technology that could not be redeployed elsewhere in the system was the fiber installed to Derby prior to the suspension of work. The wasted cost for the fiber was estimated to be \$108,000. In addition, due to consolidation, the Rockingham PSAP now requires additional bandwidth from the Vermont Telephone Co. to accommodate call-taking positions transferred from Rutland. Finally, additional operational costs may be needed. Opponents to the consolidation have pointed out that the consolidation will not save anywhere near the projected \$.6 million in savings that was expected.</p>	<p>Governor consolidating state-operated call centers from four to two. The consolidation is expected to save \$1.7 million.</p> <p>This example showcases the importance of information sharing with all partners and stakeholders, management of existing projects as upgrades are being planned and made, and the importance of oversight and accountability for funds already spent.</p>
CA	Withdrawal from County 911	<p>City of Seaside joins Salinas, Pacific Grove in possibly bailing on Monterey County (CA) 911 system. Monterey County spokesperson Maia Carroll said each partner pays based on a formula that includes population, property value and workload, all of which are equally weighted. In fiscal year 2013-14, Salinas paid 30 percent, Pacific Grove 4 percent and Seaside 6.5 percent. In all, the cities paid 65.5 percent, fire districts paid 17 percent and the county paid 17.5 percent. They feel the county has more say in how the emergency services center is run, and how the money is spent, even though fiscal documents show the cities pay two-thirds of the costs.</p>	<p>Cities bailing from a county 911 system because they do not feel they have enough say in its operations.</p>
IN	Riverboat Revenue	<p>Changes in law affect riverboat revenue. Riverboat gamblers in Indiana pay \$3 each time they board a riverboat casino. From the \$3 admission fee, \$1 goes to the city; \$1 to the county; 10-cents goes to the local tourism entity; and the other 90-cents goes to the state to help fund a variety of programs. Changes in state law would lift the requirement for gamblers to re-board (and re-pay) every two hours, lowering the revenue to counties.</p>	<p>Demonstrates another source of revenue (outside the per-device fee), and how changes in laws affects formulas that fund programs</p>

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IL	911 Operations & Improvements	<p>911 fee change heads to governor A proposal to alter the fees people pay for 911 emergency phone service is headed to Gov. Bruce Rauner's desk. In action Sunday, the Illinois Senate unanimously approved a rewrite of the state's 911 laws as part of a goal to create a statewide system by 2020. A key piece of the package is a uniform monthly fee of 87-cents per month for 911 services for both cell phones and land line phones. The fee may mean a slight increase for some cell phone users, but also could represent a decrease in the cost for land line users.</p> <p>Illinois legislators pass bill to consolidate 911 services An Illinois bill overhauling the state's 911 emergency response system has been approved in the state house and senate and sent to Governor Bruce Rauner's office to be signed. The changes would shorten emergency response times and cover more counties.</p> <p>Governor signs 911 revamp The fees Illinoisans pay for 911 emergency telephone service are changing under a law signed by Gov. Bruce Rauner. Without comment, the governor approved a rewrite of the state's 911 laws as part of an initiative to create a statewide system by 2020. A key piece of the package is a uniform monthly fee of 87 cents per month for 911 services for both mobile phones and land line phones.</p>	Along with helping to finance the cost of 911 services, the fees will go toward pushing for consolidation of local emergency phone service providers. It also will bring 911 to nine counties that don't currently have the service.
AK	Extension on Text to 9-1-1 Capability	<p>Alaska Carrier Requests 1-Year Extension on Text to 9-1-1 Capability. In December, Alaska Wireless Network (AWN) filed a petition requesting a one-year waiver of Section 20.18(n) of the commission's rules requiring all covered text providers to be "text-capable" by Dec. 31, 2014, to support text-to-9-1-1 service for any requesting public-safety answering point (PSAP). In its petition, AWN said that as a Tier 3 carrier serving Alaska, it faces unique financial and technical constraints in meeting the text-capable requirement by the deadline, and that technical issues associated with its deployment of a Long Term Evolution (LTE) network render it unable to route 9-1-1 texts to the appropriate PSAP.</p>	States are struggling to keep current systems up and running, while trying to migrate to advanced technologies whose requirements are evolving (Text-to-911)
MD	9-1-1 Operations & Improvements	<p>Baltimore County Implements Next-Generation 9-1-1 Infrastructure from Unify. Unify, a leading communications software and services firm, today announced Baltimore County, Maryland, is an early adopter of Unify's OpenScape platform for the county's transformation to a Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) operation. Located just outside of Washington, DC, and home to two major universities, Baltimore County's highly trained public safety staff serves a population of more than 800,000 residents and more than 20 million visitors each year. Baltimore County 9-1-1 manages and coordinates emergency response and disaster preparedness activities with some of the most advanced public safety processes and solutions available. Coordinating dispatch with over 55 individual fire stations, 10 police precincts, three helicopter units and over 2,000 sworn personnel, Baltimore County 9-1-1 serves as the central command center for this large metro area.</p>	An example of how current infrastructure is being leveraged and integrated into a more advanced application, Baltimore County is bringing their internal call management operations to an integrated application layer, to equip their PSAP with the most advanced solution in the U.S.

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State	Category	Method	Intended Impact
OH	9-1-1 Operations & Improvements	Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center recognized nationally as a leader in emergency communications Touting some of the most advanced equipment in the region, the Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center has now been named as a leader in public safety communications by The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials. "These municipalities were looking for cost savings associated with the merger of dispatching services. They were obviously not willing to downgrade emergency dispatching services or to lose their voice in important decisions." Many of the advancements were funded through a \$780,000 Assistance To Firefighters Grant through FEMA.	Chagrin Valley is an example of successful collaboration between leaders and member agencies.
TX	9-1-1 Dispatcher Training	New training will allow Sherman 911 dispatchers to give medical directions over the phone Sherman's 911 dispatchers are getting new medical training to help callers in an emergency while first responders are on the way. By the end of July, instead of just routing calls, dispatchers will be able to give instructions on how to perform CPR and deal with a diabetic emergency or a stroke while first responders are enroute. The Sherman Police and Fire Departments have worked together to implement the program and it won't cost the taxpayer any extra dollars. The \$6,800 dollars needed to cover training costs is coming out of the drug enforcement budget.	The reallocation of funding to train 911 dispatchers will help treat patients, citizens, or those passing through Sherman faster and better in the long run.
OH	9-1-1 Operations & Improvement	Zanesville to digitize 911 system People calling 911 may soon be able to send dispatchers photos, video and text messages as officials look to phase out the analog system for a digital system. City officials hope the new system, which should be up and running within two months, will eventually allow emergency personnel to respond to calls more quickly and efficiently. The city set aside \$114,450 for the new 911 system. Of that, \$100,000 comes from the 911 Wireless Committee; the remainder will be paid out of the police fund. The wireless committee, made up of city and county officials, oversees funds for the 911 dispatching centers, and is funded from residents' cellphone bills. From each bill, 28 cents goes to the committee. The committee raises about \$100,000 a year.	An example of collaboration and ways to use of funds from a variety of sources.
IL	NG911 Operations & Improvement	Counties of Southern Illinois (CSI) begin operations on next-gen 911 system provided by NG-911 Inc. A next-generation 911 system is now operational for a group of 13 counties in southern Illinois in what many emergency-calling experts believe may be a blueprint for next-gen services in rural location. The last of the 17 public-safety answering points (PSAPs) went live on the next-gen 911 system on June 25, marking the end of an eight-year journey to make CSI's next-gen 911 vision a reality. "We recognized about eight years ago that next-gen 911 was coming, and we knew—being a bunch of poor, rural counties—that we could never afford to do it ourselves [on an individual basis]," Smith said. "The only way would be to get out in front of it, get some federal grant money, and cooperate on a regional basis, so we could share one set of equipment, because there was no way each of us could do it on our own."	An example of how counties are working together to consolidate resources and assets and work together.

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IN	Text to 9-1-1 Capability	“Indiana is leading the way” Text-to-911 feature doing well in the Hoosier state The “Text-to-911” system continues to prove effective in the state of Indiana. The system is used by 90 of the 92 counties. Vigo County, Indiana has had the texting system for a little more than a year now and it continues to reign successful. The text-to-911 service comes at no additional charge to the county. The funding is part of the state’s 911 surcharges.	This example showcases the benefit of a state 911 surcharge.
ME	NG911 Operations & Improvement	Emergency communications a serious problem in Franklin County Franklin County Communications Director spoke at a Rotary event, noting that despite a new dispatch center, much work remains to be done as far as improving communications with emergency agencies in Franklin County. The challenge in Franklin County is terrain. There are still places where agencies and personnel cannot hear or talk to one another. Communications Director Stan Wheeler and Franklin County Commissioners have been working with a consultant to come up with a solution. A basic communication system without the bells and whistles is estimated to cost \$488,000. The cost will need to be paid over several years and the project done in different phases. In the first phase of the project, \$73,200 will need to be raised from Franklin County taxpayers. Some of the project funds will come from Department of Homeland Security grant funds, and funds from the county’s Tax Increment Financing deal with the Kibby wind project. They are also investigating a lease agreement for a new radio console, estimated to cost \$100,000 - \$120,000, that can be refinanced.	This is an example of how one county is using various revenue streams to fund different phases of its emergency communication upgrades and improvements, and socializing the idea to community organizations to gain buy-in and support.
AR	9-1-1 Operations & Improvement	Arkansas County Quorum Court hears 9-1-1 update Arkansas amended legislation, changing the collection of revenue for 9-1-1. Act 919 has increased training requirements for 9-1-1 dispatchers and supervisors, and reporting requirements for counties operating PSAPs. The documentation is required for counties to receive their 9-1-1 funding. The 9-1-1 budget receives no funding from the County General fund, so the paperwork is critical to sustaining their system. The funding comes from the AETSB (Arkansas Electronic Telecommunication Service Board), ACT 442 (an Act to provide broadband and 9-1-1 funding and services to rural areas), and landline revenue. The County 9-1-1 Coordinator has been working with the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems (GIS) office on an address point layer since February. The first layer was submitted June 23. Using an ArcMap program, the Arkansas County 9-1-1 address points are physically matched to the assessor’s parcel point layer. All counties will be required to have this layer completed in order to receive AETSB funding. Davenport expects this to be completed by the end of the year and installed on 9-1-1 consoles for a more accurate “dispatchable location.” Act 919 also provides funding for the statewide Smart911 (a pre-registration site) for 9-1-1 location-based services.	This is an example of how legislation is being used to ensure and enhance 9-1-1 services, through control of the purse strings. The law also increases training requirements for dispatchers and supervisors, and sets aside additional funding to provide that training. The Act also designates funding to specific programs (e.g., smart911). Arkansas provides an example of a state leveraging multiple sources of funding to support initiatives it enacted through legislation.

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State	Category	Method	Intended Impact
KS	9-1-1 Operations & Improvement	New alternative for next-gen 911 funding suggested As Harvey County continues preparation to move to Next Generation 911 call processing, a new opportunity to help pay for the high costs of the transition is being explored. An initial increase of the 911 fee from 53 cents per device — anything such as a phone or cell phone that can access 911 call centers — to 60 cents is well in the works. The state 911 liaison, Scott Ekberg, suggested commissioners start pushing legislators to increase the fee to a flat \$1 per device with a revenue breakdown that would allow call centers across the state to be more fully funded.	The fee increase will help finance the cost of 911 services and prepare for the move to NG911. This is interesting in that it shows how some jurisdictions see a need for additional increases in the future even as current increases are being discussed.
NJ	9-1-1 Operations & Improvements	N.J. county moves one step closer to full regionalization of 911 dispatch In the latest effort to regionalize services and reduce the cost on individual municipalities, Carneys Point and Salem County have signed a five-year contract to have the county take over emergency dispatching for Carneys Point, which has been providing the service for Pennsville. Currently Carneys Point Township pays \$300,000 annually for the dispatcher's salaries and benefits. The cost to Carneys Point Township is expected to significantly decrease over the course of the five-year contract from \$105,771 in 2016 to \$43,325 in 2020. All four of the dispatchers who were previously working for Carneys Point have been offered positions at the county's 911 center in Mannington Township.	Regionalization can help to relieve the pressure on municipalities to provide first-class public safety.
NC	9-1-1 Operations & Improvement	Johnston residents can text emergencies to 911 . Following a technology upgrade, Johnston County residents can text 911 for help instead of calling. Rather than buying all new equipment the county decided to lease the next-generation system from Century Link for \$50,000 per month. Under this contract, Century Link services the equipment and makes sure Johnston has the latest hardware and software.	This example showcases the benefits of leasing.
MN*	9-1-1 Operations & Improvements	Minnesota Funding Improvements with 911 Revenue Bonds . The State of Minnesota issues bonds for the purpose of financing all or a portion of the cost of certain programs and capital projects, including public safety projects. Specifically, the State issued 911 Revenue Bonds to finance portions of their public safety communications system. "The pledged revenues are derived from fees imposed by the State on each customer of a telephone service provider that furnishes service capable of originating a 9-1-1 emergency call. The system will enable emergency response organizations to utilize a single, integrated, and highly structured digital radio communications system, known as the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response System (ARMER System). Phases 1 and 2 provided nine counties in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area with the radio system infrastructure for the ARMER System. Phase 3 extended the ARMER System to the St. Cloud and Rochester State Patrol districts which encompass twenty-three (23) counties. Phases 4, 5 and 6 extend the ARMER System to the remaining counties of the State."	Bonds are debt obligations, repaid through taxes or fees, over time, with interest. Bonds are often used by state and local governments for capital costs.

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State	Category	Method	Intended Impact
MO	9-1-1 Operations & Improvements	Boone County cuts ribbon for delayed 911 center Boone County is building a new emergency communications center to accommodate the county's significant increase in population size. The disaster-proof building will provide more room for 911 dispatchers and house all new technology. The construction costs are within the original \$12.8 million budgeted for the project, including an additional cost of \$136,000 in change orders. In 2013, county voters passed a three-eighths-cent sales tax to pay back bonds needed to finish building the facility.	The passage of the three-eighths-cent sales tax showcases the importance of educating the public on the purpose of the increased sales tax.
CA	Broadband Pilot Project (LA-RICS)	Feds lift LA-RICS suspension, OK construction on 82-site public-safety LTE project Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) officials will restart work Monday on its revised, 82-site public-safety LTE system after the federal government lifted its suspension on the project and waived a clause that would have required LA-RICS to meet a 20% matching requirement. Three weeks ago, LA-RICS submitted a revised design for its proposed LTE network—known as a corrective action plan (CAP). NTIA, in close consultation with FirstNet, determined the revised LA-RICS project plan would deliver substantial benefits to the Los Angeles public safety community. Most of the funding for the project is coming from a \$154.6 million federal BTOP grant; however, under the CAP budget proposed on April 13, LA-RICS would spend \$90 million in BTOP grants on the revised project.	NTIA determined that the revised LA-RICS project plan would deliver substantial benefits to the Los Angeles public safety community and to FirstNet, and could be completed by the statutory deadline. The agency waived the 20% matching requirement.
MN	Broadband Pilot Project	Minnesota Pilot to Demo Public-Private Collaboration for FirstNet. Key players in the wireless industry partnered with government entities in the state of Minnesota to encourage private-public partnerships that establish a national public-safety broadband system. The pilot project in central Minnesota is a public-private collaboration among the state of Minnesota, Great River Energy (GRE), the City of Elk River, [and several vendors]. All private-sector partners donated equipment, tower space, technical services and carrier services at no cost to the government for the project.	This network will provide the ideal platform for testing some of the latest technology and equipment that could enhance public and first responder safety.
FL	Purchasing New Equipment	Police Body Cameras Offer Sense of Trust, Study Shows The use of body cameras by law enforcement is still in its infancy, but a University of South Florida study says the technology is building confidence between at least one Florida police department and the community it serves. The body cameras, Jennings said, initially cost about \$600 each. But additional costs for data storage and equipment maintenance increased the price tag to about \$1,000 per camera. In January, the Tampa City Council unanimously approved spending \$83,000 to purchase 60 Taser Axon Flex cameras and video storage system. Over the next five years, the cost of storing video footage, software licenses and other expenses is expected to total about \$287,000. The money comes from the police forfeiture fund, which includes cash and property seized in criminal investigations.	This example showcases some of the unique ways in which police departments are starting to pay for upgraded and new equipment.

*These examples were included in the SAFECOM/NCSWIC White Paper on funding mechanisms, entitled: [Funding Mechanisms for Public Safety Communications Systems](#)